



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2016

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower
Third Floor Conference Room
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

PENDING APPROVAL

Council Members and Liaisons Present

Becky Brimhall-Lepire (Chair), George A. Evanoff (Secretary), Patsy Gillis, Deborah Hankerd, Diane Joens, Doyle Meredith, Lisa O'Neill (Vice Chair), Steve Wagner, C.T. Wright, Scott Whitney, Olivia Guerrero, and Cindy Saverino

GACA Members Absent

Melinda Preston, Trudy Schuett

GACA Staff Present

Lizette Cordero, Cathy De Lisa

Guests Presenters

Sherri Collins, Dr. Tom Muller, Dr. Nicole Marrone

Guests Signed In

David Besst, Shasta J. Frutos, Nathan Gomme, Carmen Green, Steve Jennings, Amina Kruck, Christine Bryson-Lazo, Heidi Lerrik, Pam Lindley, Michele Michaels, Melanie Mitros, Michele Stokes, Karen Richards, Tammy River, Mary Westone, Larry Whitlow and representatives from Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and New Mexico attending the National Association of the Deaf Conference

Call to Order, Welcome, Review & Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes

GACA Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with a welcome and introductions then called for a review of the March 11, 2016 draft meeting minutes. *Doyle Meredith made a motion to approve the draft minutes as presented; Diane Joens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously*

Sherri Collins, Executive Director of the State of Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, introduced herself and guests in attendance from the National Association of the Deaf Conference and the National Deaf Education Conference.

Affordable Hearing Aid Project

Ms. Michele Michaels, Hard of Hearing Specialist for the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH), introduced the presenters Dr. Tom Muller and Dr. Nicole Marrone from the University of Arizona Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences who provided the background and outlined the work completed for the report commissioned by the ACDHH.

According to Dr. Muller, the Task Force approach included:

- (1) Review existing programs in the State; who and how many served?
- (2) Gather perspectives from providers across the State; included focus groups in Tucson, Flagstaff and Phoenix as well as an online survey
- (3) Review the literature in the area and
- (4) Develop evidence-based recommendations.

Dr. Muller reported there are an estimated 1,145,166 adults with hearing loss in Arizona; of these, an estimated 204,984 are living at or below the poverty level and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) covers hearing aids and hearing services for children, but not for adults. According to Dr. Muller, not helping people with hearing loss likely costs the state money as adults with hearing loss earn 40 to 45% less and are unemployed at a rate of 10 to 50 % greater than the national average, depending on the severity of their hearing loss. Dr. Muller then displayed the options currently available under hearing healthcare providers, for individuals served by the vocational rehabilitation system, Veterans eligible for hearing aids and services through the VA system and those eligible for hearing aids, services through the Indian Health Service System and AHCCCS/Medicare Advantage Plans. The remaining number of working age Arizonans living in poverty with hearing loss and no option was reported as 13,895 Arizonans.

Dr. Marrone outlined four proposed solutions that include implementing a Link Specialist Program, supporting availability of AHCCCS/Medicare Advantage Health Plans with hearing aid coverage, expanding AHCCCS coverage to include hearing aids and related services for adults under the age of 65, and implementing a statewide Audiologic rehabilitation program. A stop-gap measure proposed is a state-wide volunteer-based hearing aid service program.

The presenters indicated the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) could help by: supporting legislative efforts, efforts to develop the Link Specialist and statewide hearing rehabilitation program, efforts to add questions about hearing loss and its treatment on the State's annual public health survey, and efforts to raise awareness.

The full presentation and accompanying handouts are available for review at the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

Arizona Department of Economic Security State Plan on Aging update & discussion

Cindy Saverino, Administrator for the Aging & Disability Services Administration (ADSA) at the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services provided the official update on the 2015-2018 State Plan on Aging to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging; she was assisted by David Besst.

Ms. Saverino reported the Arizona State Plan on Aging covers a four year planning period, outlines the goals and objectives of the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), guides service

delivery to the aging population, and coordinates the Aging Network with other networks and resources.

Services include In-Home Services of personal care, home health aid, housekeeping, home delivered meals, home nursing, congregate meals, adult day care, and transportation. Also included are Family Caregiver Services, Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, Nutrition Services, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Senior Medicare Patrol, the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Legal Services Assistance Program, and the Aging and Disability Resource Consortium. According to Mr. Besst, in 2015, the Caregiver Resource Line received calls from 1,000 people per month and 200 caregivers received vouchers for training, respite. In 2015, SCSEP had 118 slots, served 500 seniors, provided 484,000 hours of community service, and 120 SCSEP trainees transitioned into employment.

Examples of the work being done in alignment with each of the eight goals of the State Plan on Aging were provided by Ms. Saverino and Mr. Besst.

A complete copy of the State Plan on Aging update presentation is available through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

Liaison Reports

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) – Olivia Guerrero began with by thanking GACA for sponsorship of the Az4A conference then reported:

The legislature's budget package included \$700,000 Health Services Lottery Funds, one- time funding which is estimated to serve 308 clients that are currently on the wait list for home and community based services. The current statewide list per the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is 2,914 clients. DAAS reports the average cost per client is \$2,317 annually. Total funding of \$6,227,218 would be needed to clear the waitlist.

The Supplemental Payment Program (SPP) is being phased out. The program provided 80 case managed home and community based clients with a monthly payment of \$70 for the purposes of hiring an individual to perform homemaking duties that they are unable to perform. The Area Agencies plan to provide these services through existing provider networks and cover the costs.

Highlights of regional activities reported:

Region I recognized World Elder Abuse Day by educating about financial exploitation. The agency sponsored an ad with information on financial exploitation which ran at four Harkins theaters in Maricopa County and is estimated to have reached over 218,000 people during its two week run in May. Two new private pay programs were launched: Carenet – An emergency alert device program and AGEconnect – A private pay options counseling program.

Region II – Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) Generations of Commitment Gala honored the family of Robin Klaehn-Quillam, RN, a former GACA member who has been a strong advocate for rural home health care, respite and twice testified before Congress and attended several White House Conferences on Aging. She is the founder of the Tucson Salute to the Centenarians which began in 1987.

Region III – reports challenges faced with fiscal year close out and special needs evacuation during three fires in the region due to technical difficulties with the new State reporting system.

Region IV – Western Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging (WACOG) was able to partner with the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) to offer the Second Wind Dreams Virtual Dementia Tour at Beatitudes Campus in Phoenix on June 8-9. Over 100 participants experienced a simulation of some of the challenges that individuals with dementia face in everyday activities, including sensory, cognitive, and motor deficits. This collaboration helped to fulfill the Arizona Alzheimer’s State Plan goals and objectives for dementia education and training of emergency responders.

Region V- Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens - The State Health Insurance Program/Senior Medicare Patrol (SHIP/SMP) completed SHIP Core training in April and May 2016. The agency now has six new SHIP/SMP volunteers in Pinal County and one in Gila County. The 7th Annual Caregiver Conference was held on May 27th with 140 in attendance. The Senior Connections Conference was held in Payson on Friday, June 24th and the Resource Roundup was attended by more than 250 people.

Region VI – South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) Area Agency on Aging VI hosted the 2nd Annual Aging Conference in Bisbee; present were members of the AAA Advisory Council, provider staff, exhibitors and caregivers who deliver dedicated care to loved ones. Speakers informed on dementia care, meaning moments, engaging the person with dementia, caring for the caregiver and long term care and advanced directives.

Region VIII – Area Agency on Aging – Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (AAA/ITCA) - Mary Westone reported: the Foundation of Senior Living (FSL) has been contracted to provide personal care training on a variety of topics to family caregivers. The training was provided on-site in tribal communities and FSL used their mobile van with equipment displays. The following tribes participated in the training: Ak-Chin Indian Community, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Gila River Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Tohono O’odham Nation. Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSMP) Tribal Leader Training was provided on July 27-30, 2016 at ITCA with seventeen Tribal staff from various tribal communities certified as CDSMP Leaders. Tribes are planning on partnering with other agencies, such as Senior Services, Health Services, Human Services, etc. to provide training in their communities.

A complete copy of the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging report is available through the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging office.

Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) – No representative was in attendance

Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services (ADVS) – Scott Whitney, Admissions Coordinator reported: Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services now operates three State Veteran Cemeteries in Marana, at Camp Navajo near Flagstaff, and in Sierra Vista. ADVS dedicated the Arizona Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery at Marana in March, and the Arizona Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo on Saturday June 11th.

Two years ago, the State Legislature gave ADVS the state's share of funding to build a new State Veteran Home in Yuma. While still waiting for the Federal VA's share of that money, ADVS has moved ahead with the design and drawings to quickly move when the VA's funding comes through. In the session just adjourned, the State Legislature gave ADVS 10-million dollars to also build a State Veteran Home in Flagstaff. The City of Flagstaff has set aside land in Northern Arizona for the home, and construction time will depend on when the federal share of the funding becomes available.

On June 24th, Navajo Nation President Begaye and Director Wright signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This historic collaboration between the Nation and the Department will allow ADVS to officially accredit Veteran Service Officers to file claims on behalf of Veterans living on the Navajo Nation. The Department has also worked as subject matter experts with the Navajo nation as they set up their new Navajo Department of Veterans' Affairs.

ADVS continues to work on the Roadmap to Veteran employment. The Department in coordination with the Arizona Coalition of Military Families has launched a pilot program to match active duty, Guard and Reserve and veterans with employers and set up hiring events to actually hire them. Of the roughly 540-thousand veterans living in Arizona, 58-thousand are women. While the mission at the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services is and will continue to be to serve all 540-thousand of our men and women who have served, the ADVS also focuses on those things that women veterans proclaim are important to them. Director Wright has begun looking at ways ADVS can reach out to and expand ADVS services for our female veterans, many of whom do not even consider themselves veterans. In March and April, the ADVS sponsored four Veteran and Military Women Expos in Tucson, Tempe, Glendale and Flagstaff. At each of those Expos, women veterans or women still in uniform were able to learn what benefits and opportunities are out there for them and how to connect with those benefits and opportunities. Director Wright's plan is to take the lessons learned from those four Expos and use them to understand the issues that women veterans face and to find the solutions to the issues.

A complete copy of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services report is available through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) – The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) report, provided in advance by Jay Dunkleberger and distributed to GACA, is available through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

Attorney General's Office (AGO) – No representative in attendance; information was provided at the Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee by Thomas Chenal, Assistant Attorney General.

2:20 p.m 5 minute break

GACA Chair Report & Discussion

GACA Chair, Becky Brimhall-Lepire reported:

- Recommendations from the Executive Committee and follow up discussions on by-law proposed amendments - Council member, George Evanoff shared a handout of proposed amendments to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) by-laws. According to

the current by-laws, the proposed amendments are to be posted for 30 days ahead of a vote at the September 9, 2016 GACA meeting. Members were asked to review and provide any input to the staff as soon as possible.

- Overview of committee proposed objectives, recommendations, discussions, & action taken - Following a review and discussion of the proposed objectives, including the Silver Alert expansion supportive statement as recommended, *Deborah Hankerd made a motion to approve the proposed objectives recommended as presented; C.T. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
- Travel policies and process for submitting claims - Lizette Cordero, GACA Executive Assistant, presented information on the new electronic travel policy. Ms. Cordero reported the Travel Policy has not changed rather the process for submitting claim has changed. Travel claims will only be accepted electronically and must be signed by the claimant. Also discussed were the acceptable and unacceptable charges allowed and handouts with examples of a correct and incorrect travel claim

A copy of the draft by-law amendments, proposed objectives and the travel policy claim process hand outs are available for review through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

Executive Director's Office Updates

Executive Director Cathy De Lisa reported - the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's partnership with WACOG and the Beatitudes Campus to offer the Virtual Dementia Tour was a success. Progress is being made in the transition of Aging 2020 to the State Plan on Aging, and additional state agencies will be able to participate in the collection of data for the next State Plan on Aging through community forums next year. The Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force will have a new Co-Chair. Deborah Schaus is taking a position with East Valley Adult Resources; James Fitzpatrick will be sharing leadership duties of the AATF with Cindy Saverino. Deborah was presented with a certificate of recognition for her leadership of the AATF from the Governor's Office on Aging.

Council Member Reporting & Sharing

GACA Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire reported six GACA members and the Executive Director attended the Az4A conference in May; she also participated in the Aging2.0 event with the Executive Director.

Due to time constraints, Executive Director Cathy De Lisa offered to provide resource information and event information provided at the GACA meetings by email to those in attendance.

Call to the public

Ms. Shawn Trobia from AARP commented she has not been able to attend Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meetings in the past six months due to her work schedule but she was glad she was available to attend this meeting with so many updates.

Ms. Amina Kruck commented there is much information to share and stated the Ability 360 Sports & Fitness (SpoFit) has hosted large events and extended an invitation for the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) to tour and consider use of the facility.

Ms. Deborah MacIlroy from the Independent Living Blind (ILB) stated she is part of a DES program that largely serves 80, 90 and 100-year old Arizonans who are blind. She indicated she would like to partner with GACA on advocacy efforts for this population.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by GACA Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire at 2:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is scheduled September 9, 2016; location and time of this meeting to be confirmed and announced by public meeting notice posted at the GACA website: <http://govtrans.az.gov/gaca/>. These meetings are open to the public.